

No 14, Crown Point - History

Department of Indiana

Fred Schmidt Post
No. 20



History of the Post
and
Facts of Interest to Members

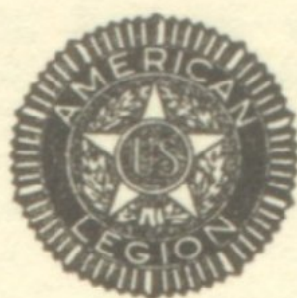
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

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FOREWORD

The data for this pamphlet has been gathered from many sources, and includes matters of personal memory and observation.

I have endeavored to gather accurate information and present a true history of Fred Schmidt Post No. 20, and a correct report of all military services discussed.

From necessity many things done by the Post had to be passed over hurriedly, that possibly deserve more detailed narration.

I trust the history will meet the approval of the entire Post. I acknowledge as sources of information and recommend to all ex-service men the reading of the following source books, most of them to be found in the Crown Point Public Library, which will give you many pleasant hours.

Minute Books, Fred Schmidt Post.

Pershing's Experience in the World War;

Memoirs of Ferdinand Foch;

Buchan's History of the World War;

Volume IV. Indiana World War Records;

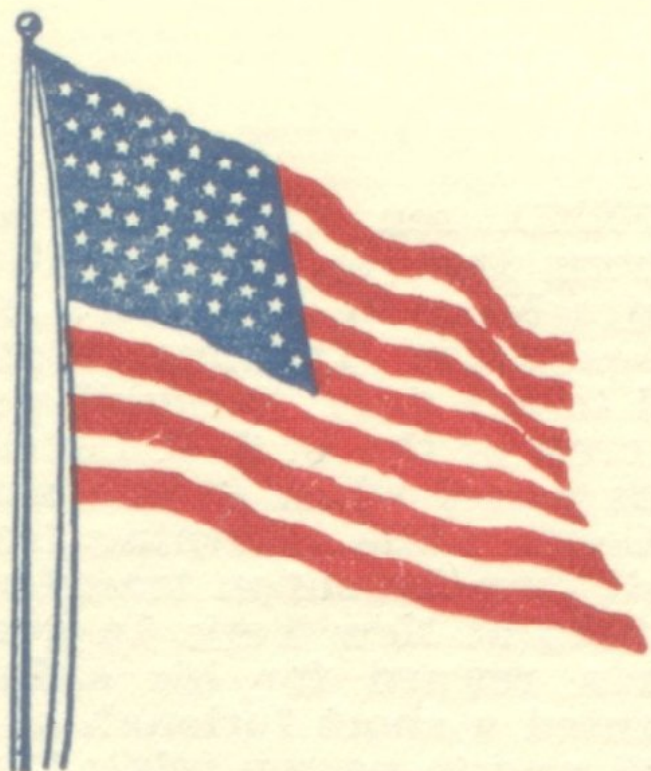
Gold Star Honor Roll, Vol. 1, Indiana War Record;

U. S. Provost Marshall's Report 1918;

Col. Leonard Ayres Statistical Report of War With Germany;

Bound Volume Lake County Star, years 1917-1918.

FOSTER BRUCE,
Post Historian



IN MEMORIAM

"In civilian life his going would have been marked by the sorrow of those who knew him as a life cut short ere it had been given opportunity to express itself.

Now in his death he has given all for the land of his birth, and as long as life and history lasts, his family carries with them the memory of a son who died that his countrymen might live."

From funeral sermon preached by the Rev. E. W. Hale, at funeral of Lloyd Coleman, in October 1918.

The following boys of the community from which Fred Schmidt Post No. 20, gets its members, made the supreme sacrifice during the Great World War and we honor them and their service.

SCHMIDT, FRED, son of August and Emma Schmidt, born Dec. 18, 1894; enlisted in the United States Navy in April 1917; sent to the Great Lakes Navy Training Station; then transferred to sea duty; Schmidt was a member of the crew of the U. S. S. Lukenbach, and was on this vessel when it was sunk off the Delaware Capes while returning from France. Mr. Schmidt was thereupon transferred to the Receiving Ship at New York, to await further orders. As a reward for his arduous duties he was granted a short furlough at Christmas time in 1917, and in person related some of the details of his experience to a few of our people. Upon his return to active duty he wrote home a number of cheerful letters, but while still awaiting further assignment to a cruising vessel was stricken with pneumonia and was transferred to the Naval Hospital, Brooklyn Navy Yard, where he died, March 18, 1918.

Fred Schmidt was 23 years of age at the time of his death, and he was the first Crown Point boy to lose his life in the war in the service of his country. His body was laid to rest at his home town in Maplewood Cemetery and he was honored with an escort of six navy comrades from Great Lakes Naval Training Station. The funeral services were conducted at the Methodist Church, practically the entire community being present.

AUSTGEN, JOSEPH B., son of Theresa Austgen, born May 16, 1895 at Schererville, enlisted in the Regular Army May 22, 1917; assigned to Signal Corps; overseas in December 1917; assigned to Co. C. 1st Field Signal Battalion; participated in the Battle of the Marne; died Oct. 7, 1918, at Chalons, France from wounds received in action.

BATTERMAN, HERMAN C., son of Herman and Anna Batterman, was born near Crown Point, Indiana, July 2, 1891. He entered the service at Jackson, Miss., where his parents were then living. He was sent overseas in the spring of

1918 and served with Co. G, of the 104th Ammunition Train. He was killed in action October 16, 1918, and temporarily laid to rest in France. However his remains were returned to Crown Point after the war, now rests in Maplewood Cemetery, in the community where he was born.

BOESEL, RHEINHARDT F., son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Boesel, born March 8, 1891, enlisted June 27, 1918, trained in Camp Sherman, Ohio, 19 Co. 158 Depot Brig. transferred to Co. I, 336th Inf., sent to Camp Grant, Ill., transferred to Camp Logan, Tex.; and then to Camp Upton, N. Y., went overseas September 1918; assigned to Co. B., 360th Inf. Killed in action November 2, 1918 in Argonne Sector.

COLEMAN, LLOYD, son of Frank O. and Mary Steinette Coleman, born in December 18, 1899; enlisted in U. S. Navy July 20, 1918; transferred to Puget Sound, Washington. Promoted to Seaman 2nd Class; died October 1, 1918, influenza, Navy Yards, Puget Sound. Buried in Maplewood Cemetery.

GOODRICH, HAROLD, son of Charles and Caroline Goodrich, born December 9, 1897, enlisted in Co. F., 1st Ind. Inf., Indiana National Guard May 1, 1917; overseas May 1918; assigned to Co. I, 104th Inf. 26th Division. Killed in action July 18, 1918 at Belleau Woods.

HELLMAN, HENRY WM. JR., son of Henry William and Emma Hellman, born April 25, 1892, at Hamel, Illinois. Moved to Crown Point, Indiana, in 1915, and settled on farm east of city; entered service August 28, 1918 at Crown Point, Indiana, sent to Camp Custer, Michigan; assigned to 160th Depot Brigade; died of influenza October 11, 1918, at Camp Custer, Michigan. Buried at Hamel, Illinois.

HALFMAN, CARL, son of Frank and Alma Kreiter Halfman, born August 26, 1895; entered service August 28, 1918; sent to Camp Custer;

transferred to Co. B. 40th Machine Gun Battalion, died October 19, 1918 of pneumonia, Camp Custer.

HOFFMAN, JOSEPH, son of John G. and Matilda Hoffman, born August 24, 1885 at Crown Point, Indiana; practiced law at Detroit, but entered 1st Officers Training Camp at Fort Sheridan as a resident of Lake County, Indiana, the home of his parents; commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant Infantry; assigned to Co. H, 338th Inf. 85th Div.; sailed with Division overseas July 23, 1918; arrived in Liverpool, England August 3, 1918; transferred on special duty to Paris for about three weeks; assigned to 125th Regiment 32nd Division, and served in St. Mihiel and Meuse, Argonne offensives; wounded in action, he died October 11, 1918.

KEILMAN, HERBERT JOSEPH, son of Philip and Mary Keilman, born June 9, 1886; entered service October 4, 1917, sent to Camp Grant, Ill., transferred to Camp Logan, Texas; and then to Camp Upton, N. Y.; overseas May 1918; assigned Co. 8. 132nd Inf. 33rd Division; wounded in Argonne Forest; he died September 27, 1918 in Evacuation Hospital 6. Buried in American Cemetery at Souilly, France.

KUEHL, GEORGE EDWARD, son of Adolph and Anna Kuehl, born August 28, 1890; entered the service June 27, 1917; overseas October 1918; sick when he reached France and taken at once to the hospital at Brest where he died October 24, 1918.

MAYBAUM, HAROLD, son of August and Dora Maybaum, born September 26, 1893 near Ainsworth, Indiana. Entered service from Crown Point, Indiana in May 1918, and was sent to Camp Custer, Mich.; assigned to 160th Depot Brigade. Transferred overseas and assigned to Co. "E" 339th Inf. Ordered to accompany U. S. forces into Russia, arriving in Russia about July 22, 1918; died of pneumonia Sept. 9, 1918 at Bakhartza, Russia. Survived by Eliza Maybaum, widow.

PINC, JAMES, son of James and Josephine Pinc, born September 18, 1889; entered service August 28, 1918; sent to Camp Custer; transferred to Colt, Pa., and assigned to Tank Corps; died of pneumonia at Base Hospital Camp Colt, October 7, 1918.

PRICE, JAMES, son of Fremont and Carrie B. Price, born October 5, 1895; entered service June 23, 1918 at Big Sandy, Montana; sent overseas August 1918, and assigned to Co. H. 307th Infantry; wounded in action October 2, 1918, and died November 16, 1918.

WESTERHOUT, JOHN PETER, son of Daniel and Elizabeth Westerhout, born July 5, 1894 at Chicago. Moved to Schererville in 1907 and entered service from Crown Point, Ind., Aug. 28, 1918; sent to Camp Custer, Michigan, and assigned to Co. 21, 6th Bn., 160th D. B.; transferred to Battery "D" 40th Field Art.; died of influenza Oct. 13, 1918, at Base Hosp. Camp Custer. Buried in Oakland Cemetery, Dalton, Ill.

DECEASED MEMBERS OF FRED SCHMIDT POST

MAHLON HUFFMAN, September 8, 1919.
EDWARD K. NEWTON, April 16, 1922.
RAY AAGARD, January 18, 1921.
WILLIAM BOESEL, June 20, 1921.
CHARLES TANNER, September 10, 1922.
GLENN WILLIARD JONES, September 24, 1921.
JOHN F. PARCHEN, January 12, 1924.
JOSEPH MILTON PIERCE, MAY 21, 1924.
LEO B. LAUERMAN, November 24, 1924.
ERNEST B. KOSCHNICK, August 24, 1924.
FRANK FEESER, November 3, 1930.
MARVIN WILLIAM DALTON, January 3, 1928.
WILLIAM POINTZ BARCLAY, after 1930.
HARRY BEACH, January 12, 1928.
EDWARD ERNEST HEICK, April 5, 1931.
MANCIE M. COFFMAN, June 22, 1931.
JESSE PETERSON, Jr., September 11, 1932.
ROY F. HOLLEY, January 16, 1933.
CARL LENNERTZ, March 15, 1933.
CLYDE M. PERRY, November 27, 1933.
ERNEST H. BOESEL, September 12, 1934.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM G. HAAN

Lake County's outstanding soldier of the World War is without question William George Haan, son of Nicholas and Mary Viant Haan, born October 4, 1863 on the Haan farm just east of Cedar Lake. Mr. Haan grew to manhood in our community, went to the Crown Point High School and gained his first military experience in organizing and commanding the Crown Point cadets, which group was composed of High School students.

Mr. Haan after graduating from the schools at Crown Point, went to West Point Military Academy and graduated in the Class of 1889, being appointed a 2nd Lieutenant June 12, 1889. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant August 27, 1896, and was appointed Captain of volunteers during the period of 1899-1901, and while in the Philippines was awarded a silver star for bravery near Manila, February 5, 1899.

Promotions followed: Major, April 9, 1907; Colonel, July 1, 1916; Brig. General National Army, August 29, 1917; Major General, April 27, 1921.

(See Vol. IV. Ind. World War Records).

During the years prior to the World War, he served the Army in many capacities; he served on the General Staff 1903 to 1906; and again 1912 to 1914; he was assigned to the Army War College in 1905; was for a few years Chief of Staff of the Eastern Department; later a member of the Fortifications Board, Panama Canal; then served on the National Land Defense Board; and in May 1917 was appointed Commander of the 57th Field Artillery Brigade at Camp McArthur, Texas.

In January 1918 he was given command of the 32nd Division, Michigan Troops, and took this division to France in February 1918, being the

7th full division to arrive in France. Under his leadership this division spent 95 days in the front lines, 35 days of which the division was taking part in an active major engagement.

Haan's division fought in the Aisne-Marne offensive July 18 to August 6, 1918; the Oise-Aisne, August 10th to 30th, 1918; and the Meuse-Argonne, September 25, 1918 to November 11, 1918.

In the Aisne-Marne offensive, along the Chemin Des Dames, three divisions of picked enemy troops were consumed in the advance of the 32nd division and were never able to withdraw from the fight, or continue as a fighting organization. They were annihilated.

General Haan's division advanced in the face of the enemy 36 kilometers during major offensives; the men of his division captured 2,163 prisoners, lost 2,898 killed in battle and 10,986 men were wounded.

(See Pamphlet War Dept., U. S. in the World War).

The division was one of 6 divisions in the First Army Corps under General Liggett and had its training in the 10th training corps at Prauthey. General Pershing's diary for June 22, 1918, after an inspection in that trying period of the war states:—"The 32nd division (Haan) is promising."

General Pershing says further in regard to Gen. Haan's work: "On being relieved at the Vesle (the objective of the Aisne-Marne offensive) on August 7, 1918 our 32nd Division (under Haan) was assigned to the 10th French Army, and entered the line on August 28th, 1918, immediately undertaking a series of local operations in which gains were made under heavy fire. The enemy resisted desperately on the entire front, but on the 30th of August a flank attack from the south made by the 32nd division, brought about the capture of Juvigny." "Hard fighting continued on the 31st but by the end of the day the division reached the important mission, St. Quentin road where it was relieved on the 3rd day

of September. The advance of three miles made by Haan's division contributed greatly toward the forced withdrawal of the German line to the Aisne River.

(See page 241, Pershings Experiences of the World War.)

General Haan led his division in the 5th Army Corps beginning Sept. 26, 1918 in the Meuse-Argonne, being on the American right, near Montfaucon. "He captured Ciergers October 1, 1918 and advanced to south of Gesnes on October 4, 1918 despite very severe hostile fire and captured that town the next day, just to the right of the heights of Romagne". (See Pershing's Experiences in World War, page 323).

The 32nd Division, lead by Gen. Haan reached Romagne on October 9, 1918 and penetrated the enemy trenches on Cote Dame Marie on the 10th, but was driven from the latter by the enemy's strength, and established its lines on the southern slopes of the hill.

(See page 333, Pershings Experiences, in the World War).

The whole allied line was now being pushed forward, and the American troops were fighting it out with the best troops that the enemy had, and fighting in the roughest terrain, where every inch was contested.

At page 353, General Pershing says, "Although the terrain was difficult and resistance most determined the 32nd Division under Haan of the V Corp by night of October 18th reached the middle of the Bois de Bantheville. Here it was relieved by the 89th Division, who continued to press, etc."

The division was taken out of the line for rest about October 31, 1918.

"The 32nd Division re-entered the line on the 9th of November and made substantial progress. On the 10th it moved forward until stopped by

Artillery fire from the east of the Thinte River." The next day Armistice Day "the division stood east of the Meuse River, and about twelve miles southeast of Sedan."

(See Pershing's experiences in World War, page 384).

After the Armistice, General Haan was placed in command of the 7th Corps, of the Army of Occupation in Germany, where he remained until the late spring of 1919. Upon his return to the United States, General Haan was made Director of the War Plans Division of the General Staff, and remained as such until his retirement August 31, 1922.

General Haan was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. General Order No. 12, War Dep't., 1919, the citation reading as follows:—

"This officer in command of the 32nd Division took a prominent part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive and in a brilliant and successful attack against the Cote Dame Marie covering several days, deprived the enemy of the key point of the position. His clear conception of the tactical situations involved showed him to be a military leader of superior order."

General Haan was made Commander of the Legion of Honor, March 16, 1919, by Presidential order of the French Government.

General Haan was awarded the Croix De Guerre with palms by the French Government April 29, 1919, the official citation being:—

"He commanded the 32nd Division in a remarkable manner during the operation which ended in the re-taking of the Chemin Des Dames and Laon. Thanks to his tactical sense, his strategical skill, and his indomitable tenacity and the magnificent spirit of his troops, who had implicit confidence in their leader, he advanced several kilometers

and captured the important position of Juvigny, which the enemy defended with desperate obstinacy."

After his long life of army service for his country and his World War days spent in tremendous activity, General Haan found time on two occasions to make short visits to his home town, once on July 4th, 1919 to attend the Community celebration as its honored guest, and once a few years later to join in a re-union banquet of his High School Cadet cronies, the friends of his boyhood days.

Many of the younger people of the community from which he came, and of which he is certainly one of the most distinguished, have not had the opportunity of seeing this busy citizen and soldier.

For these the writer can only direct them to the March 1919 copy of the World's Work Magazine, where they will find an autographed painting of General William George Haan, the original of which was made in France while he was in the height of his mental and physical power, and which is certainly a remarkable likeness.

See bound volume in Crown Point Public Library).

General Haan died October 26, 1924, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

He married Margaret Hoppin Howes, August 16, 1905 and was survived by two brothers, Nicholas Haan of Hammond, Indiana, and Dr. George Haan, of Aurora, Illinois.

He was affectionately nicknamed by his comrades in West Point and the men of the Red Arrow Division "Bunker."

Fred Schmidt Post No. 20, is honored in having its home in the community that bore such a distinguished and faithful servant. As individuals we can be encouraged and stimulated when we think of his accomplishments.

PREAMBLE, LEGION CONSTITUTION

For God and Country;
We associate ourselves together
For the following purposes:
To uphold and defend
The Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate
A one hundred per cent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents
Of our association in the Great War;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation
To the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy
Of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the Master of might;
To promote peace and good will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity
The principles, Justice, Freedom and Democracy;
And to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
By devotion to mutual helpfulness.

SHORT HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion is a non-political patriotic organization, whose ideals are set forth in the preamble of its constitution, (see preceeding page).

The organization took shape immediately after the close of hostilities following the Great War, and while the American Expeditionary forces were still in France. The Boys in the Army, being then released from the pressure of work and effort of actual warfare, became restless, homesick and anxious to get back to America and things American, and at the same time desirous of preserving the best of the experiences and memories of their association together.

The memorable meeting called the "Paris Caucus" was held in March 1919, in the Cirque De Paris" and the foundation stones laid. The caucus was attended by more than 1000 veterans from rank of Major General to Private, chosen by the various outfits then in France. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., was a leader in the movement, serving as temporary chairman.

Col. Roosevelt called the First National Caucus to order at St. Louis, Mo., on May 8, 1919, and after he declined the unanimous choice of the convention as chairman, Henry D. Lindsley of Texas was chosen the first leader. A more complete constitution was adopted, and a new executive committee chosen, and the new officers obtained from Congress a National Charter in September 1919.

The First National Convention of the newly chartered organization was held in Minneapolis, Minn. November 10, 11 and 12, 1919, and by that time 11,000 posts had been organized in the

nation and were presented in convention. Fred Schmidt Post had a deegate to this first convention, Foster Bruce, who had the privilege of being one of the four delegates sent by the old 10th District, from Indiana.

The Legion at once became a National employment service for all discharged veterans. They reported to the posts for jobs and got them. The organization acted as a shock absorber in transferring the great body of 4,000,000 men from Army life back to the pursuits of civilian life.

In 1924 the organization insisted that some measure of compensation be given the veteran for financial disablement suffered during the war, and brought about the passage of the adjusted compensation act.

In 1925, the Legion raised the fund of \$5,000,000 to be used as an endowment fund for World War orphans and rehabilitation work.

In the years following the Legion has mandated all posts to engage in some worthy community enterprise, educational program or civic project.

In carrying forward its vigorous program of Americanism, the Legion has fostered boys work, Junior baseball leagues, child welfare programs, and is now engaged in organizing Sons of Veterans to interest the boys in self development and in the Legion Program.

In 1927 the National Convention was held in Paris, France, and Comrades George Fate and Thomas Seymour of Fred Schmidt Post attended the convention with their good wives. Mrs. Jennie Ward Wheeler of our Auxiliary was a state delegate to this convention.

In more recent years the work of the National Conventions has been well and intimately known by large numbers of our post. Our Auxiliary Choral Club took National honors at the Boston and Louisville conventions

The National Conventions are an inspiration and a pleasure to all ex-service men, and the National parades have become a pageantry of color and sound whereby the ex-service men express their enthusiasm and devotion to their cause and their states.

Membership in the Legion is limited to American soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses, who saw active service during the actual fighting days of the World War which is the period between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918.

The membership of the Legion on December 31, 1934 was 831,681. Membership cards received during the first half of 1935 indicate that the present year will exceed this figure by at least 100,000.

The membership of the Legion far exceeds any other ex-service man's organization, and is constantly growing in numbers, so that it may be considered the chief spokesman for four million ex-service men.

If the Legion has the same experience as the G. A. R. it will reach its greatest numerical strength 25 years after the war, or about 1940 to 1945. And like the G. A. R. will finally be reduced to one man, who will recall our past accomplishments with pride, and we trust will view our future work with respect and brotherly appreciation.

GOLD STAR MOTHERS

In accordance with directions from National Headquarters that the names of all Gold Star mothers, be preserved in each community, Commander Roy Fagen, in 1922 appointed a committee which reported the following list of Gold Star Mothers, who having given a son whose life was sacrificed during the war, then survived him. Many of this group have passed away since 1922.

We especially revere this heroic group whose names we list below.

MRS. THERESA AUSTGEN, Schererville, Ind.

MRS. FRED BOESEL, Crown Point, Ind.

MRS. MARY STEINETTE COLEMAN, Crown Point, Indiana.

MRS. CAROLINE GOODRICH, Crown Point, Ind.

MRS. ALMA KRIETER HALFMAN, Crown Point, Indiana.

MRS. ANNA KUEHL, Crown Point, Indiana.

MRS. JOSEPHINE PINC, Crown Point, Indiana.

MRS. EMMA SCHMIDT, Crown Point, Indiana.

MRS. ELIZABETH WESTERHOUT, Schererville, Indiana.

MRS. DORA MAYRUM, Ainsworth, Indiana.

MRS. EMMA HELLMAN, Crown Point, Indiana

MRS. MARY KEILMAN, Dyer, Indiana.

HONORABLE MENTION

Fred Schmidt Post has two members on its roster who have made the service of their country their life work, each of them serving practically thirty years in their respective branches of the service.

The first of these men, Lieutenant Commander James Sheldon Trayer, U. S. Navy, retired, was born in New York City, May 19, 1880, the son of Joseph Richard Trayer and Annie Trayer, both now deceased. He entered the United States Navy on the 13th day of November, A. D. 1901, as an enlisted man, and was appointed Boatswain, U. S. Navy on February 6, 1915. These many years experience made him a valuable sailor, and upon the entry of the United States into the World War, he was issued a temporary appointment as Ensign, U. S. Navy, August 15, 1917; a temporary appointment as Lieutenant (Junior Grade) U. S. Navy, February 1, 1918, and a temporary appointment as Lieutenant U. S. Navy, September 21, 1918.

He was commissioned a Regular Lieutenant in the United States Navy by order of the President of the United States, on August 3, 1920, and commissioned a Lieutenant Commander U. S. Navy as of June 4, 1931. He was transferred to the retired list of officers of the Navy on January 1, 1932 on account of physical disability, upon coming up for examination for promotion.

During his service in the United States Navy, Commander Trayer served in the following vessels; U.S.S. Prairie; U.S.S. Panther; U.S.S. Lawrence; U.S.S. New Jersey (with this ship on cruise around the world in 1908 with battleship fleet); U.S.S. Connecticut; U.S.S. Michigan; U.S.S. Sonoma; U.S.S. Nanshan; U.S.S. Antares; and U.S.S. Bearer.

His service also included duty at the Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island; the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill., where he had the distinction of serving as commanding officer of the first recruit and first recruit company to enter that station; at the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California; in command of an expedition to Culebra, Puerto Rico, to prepare an advance base for the United States Fleet Manuevers of 1923-24; on the Staff of Rear Admiral W. D. McDougall, U. S. Navy and Rear Admiral C. L. Hussey, U. S. Navy, as flag Lieutenant, and on the staff of the Commandant Third Naval District, New York, as Personnel Officer.

He has been the recipient of the following official Letters of Commendation:—

Rescue of Lieutenant Roland I. Curtin, U. S. Navy from the flooded store room on the Destroyer Lawrence on fire at the Norfolk, Va. Navy Yard, November 10, 1903. Commended by the Secretary of the Navy, W. H. Moody, December 2, 1903.

Rescue of the Canadian S. S. Edmonton, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, December 1917. Commended by the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, January 19, 1918.

Valuable assistance to three vessels in distress in Canadian waters, December 1917. Commended by the Secretary of the U. S. Navy, Josephus Daniels, February 21, 1918.

He served during the World War as the Commander of the U.S.S. Sonoma, a mine sweeper and salvage vessel attached to the Mine Force United States Fleet, and for services during the World War was awarded the Navy Cross, and presented with the following citation by the President of the United States:—

“For distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Sonoma in assisting ice-bound vessels in the winter of 1917 and 1918; in constant and efficient attendance on the

Mine Laying Squadron; and for valuable and seamanlike assistance under very difficult circumstances in connection with the loss of the British ship Huntscliff."

In 1914 Commander Trayer married Emma Krohn at Crown Point, Indiana, daughter of Charles Krohn and Amelia Krohn, and since his retirement has established his home in that city.

Major Harrison W. Smith, U. S. Army Retired, is another member of our post who devoted 30 years of his active life to the service of his country. Major Smith was born Dec. 26, 1873, at 110 Howe Street, New Haven, Connecticut, the son of Henry Williard Smith and Celista T. Foote Smith. He enlisted first during the Spanish-American War, on the 15th day of July 1898, and served with General Miles expedition in Puerto Rico. He enlisted too late to draw army clothes and went immediately with the expedition, serving throughout the campaign in "Citz", his only military equipment being his rifle, cartridge belt and haversack, serving as a private in Company G 11th U. S. Inf. He remained in Porto Rico for some time as a headquarters clerk after the war, was then transferred to Washington, D. C., and to various stations in the United States, but was sent back to Cuba in 1906 during the Cuban insurrection where he served with the Army of Pacification. In 1908 he was returned to Washington, and then during 1909 and 1910 served in the Philippine Islands.

In 1914 he was with General Funston's expedition to Vera Cruz, Mexico, returning to the U. S. in November of that year. 1916 found him in Boston Harbor on the strenuous duty of paying and assisting in mustering out the troops returning from the Mexican border and Texas. He was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant June 3, 1916.

When the World War broke out Major Smith was established in an office at the State House of Massachusetts, in Boston, for the payment of

the National Guard of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, then serving the government on detached guard duty.

He organized the Finance Office at Camp Upton, L. I., N. Y., in September 1917 and in the Spring of 1918 succeeded to the command of Camp Quartermaster. He carried the dual responsibility of Camp Finance Officer and Camp Quartermaster until the return of the troops to be mustered out in the spring of 1919. After the War Major Smith saw duty at Governor's Island, Fort Sheridan and The Chicago Quartermaster's Depot, besides duty at Washington, D. C., and was retired January 31, 1928, for disability in the line of duty.

Rank and grades held: As enlisted man private in Company G. 11th U. S. Ind., July 15, 1898 to November 1, 1905. As Officer, Paymasters Clerk, November 1, 1905 to June 2, 1916. As Commissioned Officer June 3, 1916 to date of retirement, rising in rank during the war to Major National Army, and then in the period of Congressional Reorganization of the Army following the War, being reduced to 2nd Lieutenant in the Regular Army and then started up the ladder again, being discharged upon retirement as a Major in the Regular Army, having been twice a Lieutenant, three times a Captain and three times a Major.

We have three other boys with distinguished records and citations.

The following records are taken from the Indiana Book of Merit, being Volume IV of the Indiana World War Records compiled from official sources. These comrades are very much alive and active, but their records are of interest to the post.

At page 351 we find:

Holmquist, Hilding, Sergeant Battery E.,
5th Field Artillery, 1st Division; awarded

Croix de Guerre, with bronze star by France Order No. 15,515 the official citation being:—

“An excellent Soldier, On June 9, 1918 under a violent gas shell bombardment he valiantly served his gun, giving a fine example of courage and energy.”

Record: Born May 4, 1888, in Lund, Sweden; son of Andrew and Elizabeth Holmquist. Came to Indiana in 1910. Enlisted May 10, 1917; assigned to Battery E, 5th Field Artillery September 17, 1917; Overseas Aug. 7, 1917 to September 4, 1919.

Battles: Somerville; Toul; Cantigny; Montidier; Aisne-Marne; St. Mihiel; Meuse-Argonne. Gassed May 28, 1918 at Cantigny. In Army of Occupation. Discharged September 27, 1919.

and at page 430 of the same volume we find:—

Kussmaul, Walter H., Corporal, Battery D 1st Ammunition Train, 1st Division; awarded Silver Star; Cited for bravery by Division Commander in the following language:

“October 4 to 11, 1918, transported ammunition under direct observation of the enemy, displaying great courage and skill in directing trucks over impassable roads, during a violent bombardment of enemy gas and shell fire.”

Record: Born May 20, 1898, Crown Point, Indiana, son of Martin and Susan Kussmaul; entered service May 4, 1917; assigned to Co. D., 1st Ammunition Train; Overseas August 7, 1917 to September 10, 1919; Battles: Toul; Cantigny; Saizerain; Montidier-Noyon; Aisne-Marne; St. Mihiel; Meuse-Argonne. Discharged September 17, 1919.

At page 233 we find the record of the Citation given another Crown Point boy for bravery in battle:—

Fausser, Earl Mack, Private Co. "E" 6th Engineers, 3rd Division.

"Hqrs., 3rd Division,
November 30, 1918

Silver Star
G. O. 22.

The Commanding Officer takes great pleasure in citing for bravery the following named man, to-wit:

Private Earl M. Fausser, 1565790, Co. E, 6th Eng., next of kin John Fatch, Uncle, 207 South West St., Crown Point, Indiana.

At Chenes Woods on October 20, 1918 Private Fausser displayed great bravery throughout the attack and during the week of occupation."

Robert L. Howze,

Major General, Commanding

Record: Born Aug. 11, 1899 at Crown Point, Indiana; entered service Oct. 2, 1917; trained at Camp Shelby, Miss.; Assigned to Co. "E" 309th Eng.; transferred to Co. 1, 6th Eng.; transferred to Co. D, 329 Machine Gun Battalion.

Overseas June 11, 1918 to April 8, 1919; Battles: Aisne-Marne; St. Mihiel; Meuse-Argonne. Wounded October 21, 1918 at Clairs-Chenes Woods. Discharged April 19, 1919.

The record of Comrade Henry C. Gerdt, a veteran of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine insurrection, is of interest to an ex-service men and their friends, and deserves a place in our hearts.

Henry C. Gerdt, who resides at the present time at 635 South Main Street, in our city, was enrolled on the 6th day of April 1898 as a private in Troop I of the 1st Regiment of Illinois Cavalry Volunteers to serve for a period of two years. He was appointed August 19, 1898 to the rank of Corporal, and served throughout the Spanish-Ameri-

can War until his regiment was mustered out of the service on the 11th day of October, 1898, at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. During this period he served under the command of Captain Thomas S. Quincy, 1st Ill., Vol. Cav., commanding Troop I.

When the Philippino insurrection broke out subsequent to the Spanish-American War, Corporal Gerdt re-enlisted August 7, 1899 in Company K, of the 39th Regiment of Infantry, which company was under the command of Captain F. W. Latimer, U. S. Infantry Volunteers. Corporal Gerdt served as such until his discharge on the 3rd day of April 1901.

During this period Corporal Gerdt served with Schwan's expedition to La Luzon, January 4, to February 3, 1900, including skirmishes at Munn-tinlupa, January 6th; Magallanes, January 10th; Tariaya, January 28th; five skirmishes near Atinouan February 23rd, March 4th, 9th, 15th, and 20th, and an engagement at Malos Hill, March 21, 1900. Two detachment expeditions from Atinouan February 5th, and April 30, 1900.

Corporal Gerdt carries a letter signed by Albert E. McCabe, 1st Lt. 30th Inf. U. S. Army, in which the following language is used:—

“Corporal Henry C. Gerdt,
Co. K. 30th Inf. U. S. V.,
My Dear Corporal:—

You have every reason to be proud of your record as a soldier, participating with your company in General Swan's Expedition, through the Southern provinces, the engagements at Binen, Silang, Magelenes, and the affair at Maragdon, the fight at Sariaya., the one with your company between Atfmonan and Laguimanic, you were one of the picked fifteen men that crossed the mountains with me carrying despatches and the subsequent trip in a small

boat in the storm in the China Sea, for which you received special mention in official reports.

You were in the fight with me in the Gumaca Road, the engagement in Bin-hongan; you were one of the ten men that received special mention for service in the fight with Colonel Malolos and his regiment whereby they were thoroughly defeated and driven from the province; you were also one of four picked men at San Pablo as couriers to carry despatches through miles of territory infested by insurgents to the American lines at San Tomas.

ALBERT E. McCABE
1st Lieut 30th, Inf. U. S. Vol."

OFFICERS OF FRED SCHMIDT POST, FOR 1934

Commander -----Roy Wood
Vice-Commander -----Cecil Hathaway
Adjutant -----Paul J. Bresnahan
Finance Officer -----J. T. McCullough
Sergeant-at-Arms -----James Schmal
Chaplain -----Ed. Dietel
Service Officer -----John Krost
Historian -----Foster Bruce

OFFICERS OF FRED SCHMIDT POST, FOR 1935

Commander -----Walter Mybeck
1st Vice-Commander -----Don Pardee
2nd Vice-Commander --Clayton Belshaw
Adjutant -----Zearl Woods
Finance Officer -----J. T. McCullough
Sergeant at Arms -----Albert O. Boesel
Chaplain -----Ed. Dietel
Service Officer -----John Krost
Historian -----Foster Bruce

CHIEF OFFICERS IN FRED SCHMIDT POST DURING YEARS 1919 TO 1935.

Commander	Adjutant	Finance Officer
	1919	
Max Mracek	Harold S. Barr	Harvey Minas
	1920	
John W. Wheeler	Harvey Minas	Harry Claussen
	1921	
Luther Rudolph	Edward Dietel	Harry Claussen
	1922	
Roy G. Fagen	Edward Dietel	Harry Claussen
	1923	
P. T. Hard	Fred L. Young	Karl Krost
	1924	
B. D. Woodward	Lawrence Burke	J. H. Johnston
	1925	
Foster Bruce	Harold S. Barr	J. H. Johnston
	1926	
John W. Wheeler	Russell Clark	Major Allman Edward L. Dietel
	1927	
Clarence		
McWayne	Russell Clark	Edward L. Dietel
	1928	
J. Hiram		
Johnston	Russell Clark	Roy Fagen
	1929	
Clarence E.		
Schmidt	Jonathon Jones	Fred Young
	1930	
Lloyd E. Cutler	Jonathon Jones	Fred Young
	1931	
Hilding		
Holmquist	Howard Yunker	Fred Young
	1932	
Harold Barr	Howard Yunker	Fred Young
	1933	
Zearl Woods	Hiram Johnston	Gail Lamson
	1934	
Roy Wood	Paul Bresnahan	J. T. McCullough
	1935	
Walter Mybeck	Zearl Woods	J. T. McCullough

CHARTER MEMBERS

Charter Members of Fred Schmidt Post as listed in Certified Statement of Raymond Springer, First Indiana State Commander.

Names	Present Address
1. Max Mracek,	Crown Point, Indiana.
2. Vincent Youkey,	Crown Point, Indiana.
3. Harvey Keiser,	Crown Point, Indiana.
4. Harold S. Barr,	Crown Point, Indiana
5. Harvey Minas,	Crown Point, Indiana
6. John W. Wheeler,	Crown Point, Indiana.
7. Arthur Lottes,	Crown Point, Indiana
8. John R. Krost,	Crown Point, Indiana.
9. Foster Bruce,	Crown Point, Indiana
10. Clayton Randolph,	Lowell, Indiana.
11. Harry Pettibone,	Crown Point, Indiana.
12. Arthur Weber,	Hobart, Indiana.
13. Roy C. Fagen,	Crown Point, Indiana
14. Raymond Baker,	Crown Point, Indiana.
15. Irvin Linton,	Crown Point, Indiana.
16. George Meyer,	Crown Point, Indiana.
17. Clifford Vilmer,	Chicago, Illinois.
18. Henry Biegel,	Glen Park, Gary, Indiana.
19. Mahlon Huffman,	deceased.
20. Robert Parker,	address unknown.
21. George E. White,	Crown Point, Indiana.
22. Elber G. White,	Crown Point, Indiana.
23. Fred Bisselberg,	Crown Point, Indiana.
24. Albert O. Boesel,	Crown Point, Indiana
25. Ernest Wiederman,	Crown Point, Indiana
26. Adrian Winterman,	Crown Point, Indiana.
27. Charles F. Miller,	address unknown.
28. Mathias J. Fred,	Crown Point, Indiana.
29. Francis J. Novatny,	address unknown.
30. Philip Gerlach,	Crown Point, Indiana.

The Minutes of the first two meetings of the Fred Schmidt Post of the American Legion, are of interest to every post member and are set forth here verbatim:—

“Sat. Eve., April 17, 1919

“A meeting of the Temporary Post of the American Legion held in the Assembly Room of the Court House on Saturday evening, April 17, 1919.

The following officers for the Legion were elected:

Chairman	-----	Max Mracek
1st Vice Chairman	..	Vincent Youkey
2nd Vice Chairman	..	Harvey Keiser
Secretary	-----	Harold S. Barr
Treasurer	-----	Harvey Minas

Major Umpleby gave a talk regarding the organization of the American Legion. Plans for Decoration Day Program were discussed and approved. The meeting was adjourned and a meeting of the Legion set for Decoration Day, immediately after the ceremony.

Max Mracek, Pres.
Harold S. Barr, Sec’y.”

“A meeting of the Legion was called to order at 11:30 Decoration Day, immediately after the ceremony. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Post be named: The Fred Schmidt Post, of Crown Point, in honor of Fred Schmidt of this city, the first Crown Point boy to die in the service. The program for July 4, 1919 in honor of Gen. Haan was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Max Mracek, Pres.
Harold S. Barr, Sec.”

FRED SCHMIDT POST NO. 20, ROSTER

A

Adams, D. H.
Anderson, Howad
Adank, Emil
Agerter, Harry M.
Andrews, Leslie E.
Arnst, Walter S.
Allman, Major
Ash, S. W.

B

Bailey, Ben
Bartholdi, Louis
Biegel, Henry
Baker, Raymond
Barnes, James
Barr, Harold S.
Beck, Walter R.
Beem, Clement J.
Belshaw, Clayton
Beach, Bernard
Bean, Charles
Biegel, Louis J.
Bisselberg, Fred
Blackstone, Benjamin
Boesel, Albert
Black, Gerald
Bond, Charles
Bresnahan, Paul J.
Bruce, Foster
Busselberg, William
Buse, John M.
Burris, Robert D.
Barber, Sherman
Benjamin, C. R.
Best, James O.
Bohling, Clarence
Burson, M. J.

C

Carlton, Frank

Carroll, Wm. F.
Callahan, J. L.
Callahan, Mrs. J. L.
Casey, George
Claussen, Arthur
Claussen, Harry
Clark, Ray E.
Clark, Russell
Clark, Vernon
Condon, A. E.
Cottingham, Russell
Crawford, Clarence
Cutler, Lloyd
Church, Paul B.
Conley, John L.
Cassel, O. E.
Conter, Louis F.
Cook, Loren
Conquest, Delbert
Cook, Wm. C.

D

DeWitt, John
Dewes, Eberhardt
Dewes, John
Dennison, W. R.
Drackert, Harry
Dietel, Edward
Dudley, W. P.

E

Ensweiler, Leslie
Etling, Clifford
Eichelberger, Lloyd

F

Falkiner, R. B.
Fairchild, L. H.
Fagen, Roy G.
Fawley, Elmer
Ferrerro, James
Fesley, D. A.

Franz, Aloysius
Fleming, Thomas
Frame, Harry
Fleck, Jake

G

Gerlach, Philip
Goodrich, Clarence
Graeber, Ross
Guthrie, Elmer
Goff, Charles
Griffin, Tom
Gordon, Earl

H

Haake, John
Hammond, Herbert
Hathaway, Cecil
Hard, P. T.
Hasman, Joseph
Held, Lowell C.
Henning, Peter
Hickman, Homer
Homeier, Henry
Howard, Orcie
Holmquist, Hilding
Hochbaum, George
Hobson, O. L.
Hoernig, Alois
Hodge, Robert E.
Hook, Millard
Hughes, Archie E.
Harvey, Hugh
Hendrickson, Orvil

I

Iddings, Dr. John W.
Isenbarger, M. E.

J

Jacobs, Paul
Jones, Claude
Jones, Corliss
Johnston, J. Hiram

K

Keehn, John B.
Keehn, George

Kabela, Benjamin, Jr.
Keehn, John
Kellogg, Chester
Keiser, Harvey
Kimmel, Lawrence
Klassen, Anthony
Krost, John
Krost, Karl
Krueger, Charles A.
Kubal, Edwin
Kurrack, Otto
Kussmaul, Edward
Kussmaul, William
Kussmaul, Walter
Kennedy, Thomas S.
Knight, Charles

L

Lain, Mureld
Lamson, Gail
Lauerman, Alex
Lencioni, Lawrence
Letsinger, Arthur E.
LaKotzke, Fred
Lottes, Arthur
Linton, Irvin
Lutz, Robert D.

M

Maloney, Patrick
Marquardt, George C.
McCullough, J. T.
McNellis, Martin
McWayne, Clarence
Meyer, George
Mills, Wm. I.
Minas, Harvey
Middelton, George
Miller, Ray
Moore, Harry
Murray, Robert
Muzzall, Arthur
Mracek, Geo.
Mracek, Max
Mybeck, Walter

N

Niksch, Lynn
Nichols, Edward

P

Pardee, Don E.
Parrimore, Dr. J. O.
Patrick, John W.
Pettibone, Harry
Pettibone, Dr. C. R.
Phillips, Ralph
Phillips, Walter
Pinc, John
Pinter, James
Prairie, Arthur
Pringle, William
Platt, Harry
Prevo, Orvil
Protsman, R. E.

R

Ragon, Chandos
Ragon, Forest
Rettig, Charles
Risch, Joseph
Reise, Henry D.
Ross, Charles
Rudolph, Luther
Redar, Peter
Rothermel, Clyde

S

Sauer, John
Saberniak, Peter
Saberniak, Mike
Sanders, George
Satnan, Lawrence
Schmidt, Clarence
Schmal, Harvey
Schmal, James
Schreiber, John
Siegmund, Raymond
Simborg, M. H.
Smith, Ernest
Schieser, John
Scheiser, Frank

Schreiber, Philip
Schultz, W. J.
Schultz, Frank
Smith, Harrison
Smith, Dr. Harvey
Seymour, Thomas
Scoville, Francis, Miss
Steiff, John
Scherer, Ramond
Schroeter, Wm. J.
Savio, Michael
Stasaitis, John
Surprise, Glenn M.
Schweitzer, John W.
Scott, Richard E.
Sprinkle, William
Skinner, Olind
Stark, Edmund

T

Teagle, Everett
Thiel, Joseph
Thomas, John
Thompson, H. H.
Thompson, W. R.
Trulley, Rank
Trayer, James S.

U

Ubel, Edward

V

Van Veld, Tunis
Vellutine, Ovidio
Vincent, Harold
Vito, Julius
Vollmar, Gustav
Vos, Ramon

W

Wagner, Frank
Welch, Robert S.
Wood, Roy
Woods, Zearl
Woodward, Bradford
Wendt, John
Wendt, Walter

Wheeler, John W.
Werline, Edward
White, George
Wilkening, William
Wright, Ralph
Wray, John

Y
Youkey, Vincent
Young, Fred L.
Yunker, Howard
Z
Zurbriggen, Walter
Zurbriggen, William

HISTORY OF FRED SCHMIDT POST, NO. 20.

Fred Schmidt Post No. 20, Indiana Department of the American Legion was organized very early after the close of the Great World War, in fact before the full quota of men from Crown Point, and vicinity had returned from the service. The first post meeting was called to order on the 17th day of April 1919, and an organization effected with Max Mracek as the Chairman of the new fledged post. The officers of the new post were instructed to affiliate with the State and National organizations of Ex-Service men, which at that time were themselves just taking form.

The new post chose its name at the second post meeting, adopting the name of Fred Schmidt, after the first young man from Crown Point to give his life in the service of his country during the World War. Mr. Fred Schmidt enlisted in the United State Navy in April 1917 and died after serving nearly a full year, in the Brooklyn Navy Yard Hospital, March 18, 1918.

The new post received its charter on the 10th day of August 1919 and was designated No. 20, Indiana, it being the 20th post to apply for charter. Our charter bears the signatures of National Commander, Frank DeOiler, and State Commander, L. R. Gigniliat.

During the early months of the post's existence it met in the Assembly Room of the Lake County Court House. In October 1919 the post began negotiating for the purchase of the old Masonic Hall on the third floor of the Swartz building in Crown Point, and moved into the new quarters on March 28, 1920. The post remained in this home until the year 1928 when it moved into the new Community Building, which has a room set off to the uses of Fred Schmidt Post.

We lost our first member by death, when Mahlon Huffman was killed in an accident at the Gary Mills, September 8, 1919. The post had the honor of furnishing pall bearers at his funeral.

Fred Schmidt Post No. 20 has always endeavored to be worthy of the name it bears, and has diligently devoted itself to the service of the ex-soldier. During 1919 and 1920 the post assisted all ex-service men in obtaining victory medals, the \$60.00 bonus for all who did not receive their bonus upon discharge, and sick claims, and injury allowances for many who had not had these matters pressed to conclusion before discharge from the Army and Navy as the case might be.

The Post from the beginning has always conducted a short patriotic service on Armistice Day in memory of our departed comrades, and has each year faithfully observed Memorial Day by turning out in military formation, and conducted Memorial services at Maplewood cemetery; at first in the capacity of aiding our elder comrades the John Wheeler Post of the G. A. R., and then after they passed on, our post has taken over the full charge of this service.

The winters during the first years of the post's activities were devoted to athletic sports, basketball teams particularly being successfully managed, using Legion material for players. For several years the Legion football team provided entertainment for the post and the community. During these early years the post conducted a carnival each year and at least one home talent show during the winter season.

John Ward Wheeler was the first commander elected after the post had received its charter as No. 20, Indiana, and he deserves the credit largely of furnishing the initiative impetus that started the post in its tendency for local activities that has been a marked character of Fred Schmidt Post.

Luther Rudolph was elected Commander to succeed Wheeler, and served until August 8th, 1921, when he resigned to make a successful race for city clerk. He was succeeded by Roy C. Fagen. These were years full of activity. Bonds were issued and sold to pay for the Masonic Hall; a committee was appointed to go to Camp Custer to look into the purchase of materials for a community building; furniture was bought and paid for; race committees appointed to promote auto racing which more and more provided the chief income of the post in its effort to make the dream of a community building come true.

In the spring of the year 1922 the post was saddened by the death of Comrade Edward K. Newton, who up to that time had been one of the Post's most active members. Mr. Newton served as a Lieutenant in the Medical Corps during the World War and saw service in France, and after the war engaged in the practice of medicine at Crown Point, Indiana. Full military honors were accorded Comrade Newton, Fred Schmidt Post No. 20, being in charge of the funeral.

The post minutes during these early years are rather meagre, but the Minutes of May 8, 1922 show a committee of three, Hiram Johnston, Harold Barr and Clarence McWayne, and they were directed to co-operate with the G. A. R. Post in observing the day. The post sponsored the appearance of the Wabash College Glee Club in the spring of 1922, and netted \$61.23. The show committee the previous fall showed a profit of \$370.45.

While in this history one cannot give full credit to every name, one cannot give a true picture of this period of the Legion's life, without mentioning the names of "Mose" Vilmer, Herman Meyer, and "Doc" Secrist and "Ike" Horst, all of whom took an active interest in the activity and fun around the post, but who afterwards moved away from our city.

In the fall of 1922 P.T. Hard was elected Commander of the Post. The new commander named a building committee composed of Luther Rudolph, John Ward Wheeler and Clarence McWayne to devise ways and means of carrying forward the New Legion Building plan that was the topic of every meeting during the year of 1923. The post installed a pool table this year, purchased new furniture, supported the Boy Scout drive, and joined with the Chamber of Commerce in putting on the 4th of July Celebration. James Schmal and Walter Phillips were appointed to look after the Memorial services this year. It was decided that the Building Committee should purchase the Wheeler lot for the community building, at the meeting of April 23, 1923. \$4,017.00 net was realized from auto races during the summer. In the fall of 1923 the post sponsored a successful foot-ball team under leadership of Clarence McWayne, sports chairman.

Bradford D. Woodward was elected commander November 12, 1923 for the year 1924, and in the fall of 1924 Foster Bruce was elected commander for 1925. The moving picture "Powder River" was sponsored by the post under the leadership of Commander Woodward, and during his year the kitchen in the old Legion Hall in the Swartz building was overhauled and remodeled, and the football suits were given away by Comrades Irvin Linton and John Ward Wheeler. Woodward's Finance Officer reported July 14, 1924 that the post had bonds in amount of \$6,500 on hand.

In 1925 the post conducted the endowment drive exceeding its quota of \$850.00 and raising a total of \$1,013.00, and began the work of assisting all members in applying for adjusted compensation insurance. 222 applications were filled out during the year, effecting the establishment of more than \$200,000 of insurance among the members of the post and other ex-service men in the community.

On the 24th day of August, 1924, we lost Comrade Ernest B. Koschnick. Mr. Koschnick was

born and raised in Crown Point, Indiana, and was one of our best known members. He was 35 years old at the time of his death, which was without a doubt hastened by the hardship he enduring during the war. Mr. Koschnick served overseas, earning three gold chevrons, was gassed during the Meuse-Argonne offensive and finally discharged on account of disability received in the line of duty. The writer knew Mr. Koschnick from childhood, and recalls his unusually energetic nature, and his athletic ability and prowess as a young man and his skill in the art of self defense, which made him a valuable soldier, he being used as an instructor in boxing in the army. Mr. Koschnick after the war was incapacitated for many months, prior to his death, but always remained cheerful in viewpoint and interested in the doings of the post and his home community. The post was honored in furnishing a military escort and assisting in conducting his funeral.

The paid up membership in 1925 was 109 but it fell short of the record made in 1922 of 148. In September 1925 the post sponsored the Moving Picture "Indiana in the War". The net profits from the auto races in 1925 were \$5,264.39, and in addition thereto the Legion earned \$5,455.37 which was the county's share for the use of the track, grounds, etc.

In 1926 under the leadership of Commander John W. Wheeler, plans for the Legion Community Building were carried into being, State Commander, Tom McConnell and Commander elect, Clarence Jackson, visited the post at the beginning of this administration, the occasion of their visit being a big night in post activities.

Russell Clark, now residing in Gary, was elected adjutant for 1926, which office he continued to hold for three successive years under three commanders and until he moved to Gary. He also served much of this time as manager of the community building.

The year began with a thorough membership drive, the drive being unusually effective as shown by the results, the roll for 1926 being 189 a gain of 80 members over the roll for 1925. Commander Wheeler immediately launched his active drive for the new community building. On December 2, 1925 the Legion through its building committee appointed for that purpose entered into the contract for purchase of the lot upon which the building now stands. The lot was purchased from Ara Belle Wheeler for \$7,500.00, being the South 75 feet of the North 95 feet of Robinson's Reserve, a part of the Original Town of Crown Point. After the payments were completed, the property was conveyed by warranty deed to the committee composed of John Ward Wheeler, Harry Claussen, Vincent Youkey, and Foster Bruce, as Trustees, to hold the title for the Fred Schmidt Post.

Subsequently after lengthy discussion, in the spring of 1926 a committee composed of Harry Claussen, Roy Fagen, John Ward Wheeler, Major Allman and William F. Carroll, was designated to be the American Legion Building Association. This committee organized a voluntary association and was incorporated as such under the laws of Indiana, and this committee thereupon undertook the actual planning, building and preparing of the present structure. A full report of their work would in itself require a lengthy recital.

Briefly telling the story, the committee after canvassing the problem, and consulting with architects, regarding the type of building needed, entered into a contract with Henderlong Lumber Company of Crown Point, for the erection and construction of the building. The first work on the building was done on the 28th day of December, A. D. 1926. The major portion of the minutes for 1926 have to do with the various resolutions, reports, debates, and motions, in relation to the policies to be pursued in erecting and constructing and operating the building.

At the annual meeting for election of post officers held in the Legion Hall in November, 1926, Clarence McWayne was elected Commander of the post for the year 1927. He took office on January 1, 1927, instead of Armistice Day as had been the custom theretofore for the reason that it would correspond to the calendar year, the Legion year was at that time changed so and at the suggestion of the state leaders the new commander was to use the period from Armistice Day to the first of the new year to get acquainted with his task. John N. Grinstead, an ex-service man who taught in our local high school for a number of years and was affiliated with our post while he lived in our community, was elected Chaplain for this year. In the annual drive the post quota for memberships was fixed at 200 by state headquarters for the reason that "the post shows so much evidence of activity and possibilities."

This quota was exceeded by our post, the adjutant being able to report on July 25, 1927 that Fred Schmidt Post had 203 members. The report was made at the South Bend State Convention which incidentally was attended by a large delegation that drove to the convention in a cavalcade of about 50 cars lead by Harry Clausen, chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements.

During the spring of 1927 the foundations for the building were laid, the steel work was completed, and during the summer the work progressed steadily so that by fall the interior was covered and protected from the weather, so that interior work went on uninterrupted during the winter of 1927 and 1928.

About this time Major Allman moved away and Lloyd Cutler was appointed on the building committee in his stead.

The building association was greatly encouraged by the donation of \$5,000.00 from the Chamber of Commerce of Crown Point, the accumulated

savings of the organization, which represented the sacrifice of many years work and devotion on the part of the members of that organization. During this year an intensive drive for individual subscriptions was made, which met with a fine response from the liberal and constructive minded people of our community, who thus made it possible for the Building Committee to carry forward their work.

Our post commander John Ward Wheeler was elected district Commander of the then tenth district for 1927 and under his leadership our district obtained first rank in the Indiana Department with 3,305 Legionnaires, and took 2nd place in the State parade at South Bend, on percentage of increase over the proceeding year.

The South Bend convention was a high light for Fred Schmidt Post. Commander McWayne, and delegates, Clarence Schmidt and Luther Rudolph, represented our post officially, and led a delegation of about 100 Legionnaires and Auxiliary members in the parade, the Crown Point delegation being headed by a band organized for that purpose by Comrade Fred Yonug, and the famous bucking Ford that first appeared on that occasion to make "No. 20 Ind." a cap well known to all other State Legionnaires. Fred Schmidt Post won the Legion Cup for "Most Outstanding Community Service" that year, and won second place for best band. Auxiliary member Jennie Ward Wheeler was appointed as a state delegate to the National Convention held in Paris, and made the trip to France, being present in the National Parade, along with Comrades George Fate and Tom Seymour of our post and their wives. Robert W. Bruce, who had formerly been a member of Fred Schmidt Post also attended the National Convention of the American Legion at Paris, representing the Byron Cox Post of Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he was then residing, he then being in Europe on a leave of absence of one year from his duties as an instructor at Wabash College.

State Commander Col. Howard P. Savage, of Illinois who had been elected National Commander of the Legion lead the National Parade at Paris.

Commander McWayne ruled his post during this arduous year with a firm hand, and guided the post successfully through many a stormy debate. The usual activities of the post were carried on during the year, the races in particular, this work being handled in 1927 for the first time without hiring a promoter, the committee itself assuming all the work and the responsibility that the promoters had formerly been hired to do.

In the fall of 1927 Comrade Hiram J. Johnston was elected Commander for the year 1928, he being the last commander elected in the old Legion Hall on the third floor of the Swartz building. The last meeting in the old hall was held in January, 1928.

The minutes of the post for this year are missing but as near as your historian and Commander Johnston of that year can ascertain the preceding date is correct.

The new American Legion building was dedicated for service as a community building, December 11, 1927. Col. Howard P. Savage, then National Commander was present at the dedicatory services, as well as Paul V. McNutt, past National Commander, and State Commander Frank McHale, and National Chaplain Fred Hill. Comrade Clarence Schmidt was chairman of the committee in charge of the dedication service. Following the formal service the post provided a free barbecue for all friends and visitors on that occasion. In February the post meetings were held in the new building.

In connection with this dedication and as an aftermath of the same the post historian has to record a sad catastrophe, the participants in the same being Comrades Zearl Woods and George Casey. These military men who were not the

same quiet citizens that they have since become, were deeply stirred by the visiting Colonels, National Commanders, State Commanders and all and thereupon went out to do some cannon-ading. The echoes of this affair reverberated in post circles for many months thereafter.

On February 20, 1928, Commander Johnson's post with the Chamber of Commrce put on the first joint banquet, Fred Landis of Logansport being the speaker. In March the post sponsored a three night carnival at the community building. P. T. Hard being chairman of the committee, and netted something over \$500.00. The post put on two boxing bouts, one March 16, 1928 and one May 11, 1928, which were very excellent in quality of talent shown, but did not net much profit. The post put on the first community auction of second hand supplies in April of this year. During the summer three of four scheduled races were run, netting about \$1200.00 in all. The post had a very successful baseball team in 1928, both in games won and revenue received, but the football team after playing sterling ball all season found the treasury department had just broken even.

Commander C. E. Schmidt and his assistants were installed as officers of the Legion November 26, 1928, by Commander Ruff, of the Whiting Post. The Legion sponsored a very successful Christmas party for the children of the community that year, Sunday afternoon, December 23, 1928.

The post had the honor of assisting in the last rites and burial of Oliver G. Wheeler, the last of the active members of the G. A. R. Post of this city, and one who had been for many years in G. A. R. circles.

The post sponsored a banquet for the high school football team during January, and in February sponsored a basketball tournament entering into a contract with E. J. Crawford to manage the tournament.

At the meeting of February 18, 1929, the first steps were taken to organize the Drum and Bugle Corps. In July the post took over the sole management of the 4th of July celebration, and had a very successful day, the committee reporting a net profit of \$1,122.33. During the spring the post conducted a blanket sale and earned \$346.69. The post continued to conduct auto races this year, conducting four races during the season.

The National Convention was held at Louisville this year, a large delegation from Fred Schmidt post went to the convention on the "McNutt" special. Our Auxiliary sent its Glee Club and won National honors at this convention. Our Post Colors were carried in the parade at the National Convention. This was our banner year for membership, the records showing 218 paid up members for the year.

Commander Cutler was installed October 10, 1929 by District Commander Spurrier, of Whiting. A spirited membership campaign was inaugurated, the post being divided into the "Army" and "Navy". The Navy had to feed the Army. At the end of the drive membership chairman reported 125 members for the new year. At the June meeting Mr. Woods reported a membership of 142. The races during this year were seriously interrupted by the weather man, who provided rain on each race day, so that the committee was forced to call the last race off.

It was this year that the Legion sponsored a rodeo at the Fair Grounds. Many of our members will recall the excellence of the entertainment, but it was poorly attended by the public. The post netted \$1,490 from this venture. The new drum and bugle corps marched in the Labor Day parade at Lowell under the leadership of T. J. McCullough. The post netted \$1,052.00 on the auto raffled Armistice Day.

Commander Hilding Holmquist and his fellow officers were installed by State Commander, Floyd Young, October 21, 1930. The minutes of

January 12th tell of the report on the first rabbit hunt, and it was then agreed that the hunt should be an annual affair. The Legion furnished the speaker for the annual joint dinner with the Chamber of Commerce, and obtained Past State Commander, Paul V. McNutt, who delivered an inspiring address. The post went on record at the June 28th meeting as favoring the establishment of a game preserve in the Kankakee marsh region.

Commander Harold Barr and his officers were installed by Comrade Don Spurrier, Northern Vice-Commander. The installation of a shooting gallery in the basement of the Legion Building was advocated at numerous meetings and the moving picture "Sporting Blood" was sponsored by the post November 19th and 20th at the Crown Theatre. In December Comrade Clarence McWayne reported the shooting gallery ready for use. Comrade Walter Mybeck, of Twin City Post, No. 266 and deputy clerk of Lake County was introduced to the post January 11, 1932. On January 28, 1932 the post went to Hobart and joined in a joint banquet with the Hobart and Lowell posts, as the closing event of a three cornered membership contest. Under Comrade Holmquist's leadership the post sponsored a junior baseball team this spring. In May of this year Comrade H. W. Yunker tendered his resignation as adjutant due to the fact that he was moving away from the community. Hiram Johnson was appointed by the commander to fill out his term.

Commander Zearl Woods was elected September 12, 1932, and he and his follow officers were installed the 26th day of September, 1932, by District Commander, John Ward Wheeler.

The annual hunt this year was held December 5, 1932, and the game was served on the banquet table the following evening. It was reported that animal life in southern Lake County was nearly extinct for some months after this hunt which was unusually successful. Bear, elk or other big

game counted 1,000 points in this hunt due to the scarcity resulting from the previous hunts.

In the meeting of December 19th, 1932, Comrade Richard Falkiner told of his plans for organizing the Sea Scouts, and asked for the support of the post in sponsoring this troop. It was moved and seconded and carried that the post actively sponsor this organization of older Boy Scouts; which has been faithfully done since that time to the date of this writing.

At the meeting of January 9, 1933, the same action was taken in relation to sponsoring the troop of Boy Scouts, our troop being known as Troop No. 4.

On the 16th of January, 1933 we lost Comrade Roy F. Holley, Sheriff of Lake County, by death, he being killed in the performance of his duties near the village of Ross, Indiana. In recognition of his service and courage, and the sacrifice of his life for the protection of the people of his county and state, the post spread a resolution of condolence on its records.

February 13, 1933 was set aside as charter members night. Charter members cards were presented to all of the charter members of this post that still remained in our city. It is interesting that of the 30 charter members of Fred Schmidt Post established in 1919, one only has been taken by death, Mahlon Huffman, and 21 of the number are still living in the city of Crown Point, and are affiliated with the post.

In March 1933, it was suggested that a "Last Man's Club" be organized. This idea met with immediate enthusiasm and it has been one of the major interests of the post since its organization. Comrade William Carroll has been diligent in the direction of this work, and especially in gathering material for the Last Man's Club box.

Along about this time an Irish gentleman called C. Patrick Maloney joined our Post. Pat comes

from Post 17 in Gary and ranked as a Past Post Commander and Past District Commander when he came. He was in the Air Service during the War and served as a pilot with rank of 1st. Lt.

At the meeting of September 11, 1933, Comrade James Trayer, Lieutenant Commander, retired of the United States Navy, addressed the members of the Sea Scouts who were guests of the meeting, and presented them with their service medals for their active duty on the Cruiser Wilmette.

Commander Roy Wood and his official family were installed by George Huish, Vice-Commander of the Northern District of Indiana, September 25, 1933.

He immediately made plans for a large attendance of the Post at the National Convention which was held in Chicago, October 3, 1933, being the date of the parade. About fifty members of our post marched in the parade, and attended the float which the post built for the occasion, the now famous Skull of the Last Man's Club.

On November 23, 1933 the post lost one of its most enthusiastic supporters in the death of Clyde M. Parry. Though Comrade Parry had been ill for many months and confined to his bed due to sickness that was service connected, yet he was ever cheerful in spirit, and strong in his interest for Fred Schmidt Post. He was given full military honors, Fred Schmidt Post No. 20 being in full charge of his funeral.

Commander Woods had in several recent years been our most active membership driver, and his personality and wide acquaintance rallied a host of members to his support.

Mr. Woods had the pleasure of being the official representative of the post at the Gary convention, along with Paul Breshnahan, adjutant, and delegates Orvil Hendrickson and Don E. Pardee.

The parade committee in charge of Comrade Harvey T. Minas gathered a group of about 75 automobiles and formed an auto parade that toured the downtown section of Gary, just prior to the state parade. Fred Schmidt Post No. 20 took a prominent part in the yearly promenade, and had the famous Skull of the Last Man's Club in line. Our Auxiliary was represented by their drill team dressed in white uniforms trimmed in red, being in charge of Commander Traylor, U. S. Navy retired, one of our most beloved and active legionaires.

Commander Woods brought this year to a close with a public installation of Walter R. Mybeck, commander and the new 1935 officers of the legion. The ceremony held Sept. 24th, 1934 was more impressive because Fred Schmidt Post had reached the membership quota assigned for 1935, being the first Post in the United States so to do.

The installation was conducted by the experienced team from Twin City Post 266, under the leadership of Geo. Huish, and Commander-elect Mybeck was honored by the presence of the Twin City Drum and Bugle Corps, he having formerly been a member of that post. The Dewey Biggs Post of Rensselaer under the leadership of George Fate, formerly of Fred Schmidt Post also honored us with their presence at this installation. The installation service was preceded by a parade through the principal streets of our city.

Commander Mybeck proceeded at once to name his standing committees, and announced that he would expect results from them. He has probably insisted on more work from his committees to date than any two commanders we have had.

But he has gotten results, increased membership, an energetic Americanization program by the committee in charge of that phase, a visit from our State Commander Kossa in the early part of his administration, and Armistic Day Ball that was described by all who came in touch with it as the high spot in the winter social season of

our city, and energetic sponsorship of the boy scout movement, and special efforts in Sea Scouting resulting in a trip to the Straits of Mackinac for the Crown Point Sea Scouts, a practice cruise on the U. S. S. Wilmette.

Shortly after these many activities were launched our post was saddened by the death of Ernest H. Boesel, a life-time resident of our city, born in June 1896, and who enlisted in the U. S. Army, October 5, 1917, at Ford Logan, Colorado, and served in Company A, 5th Battalion U. S. Guards, being honorably discharged July 21, 1918. After the war Mr. Boesel returned to Crown Point and lived here in reasonably good health until 1929 apparently, when he was suddenly taken ill and was removed to Hines Hospital. He remained incapacitated until his death which occurred September 12, 1934.

At the Armistice Holiday time and again taking advantage of Lincoln and Washington's birthday anniversaries the post through its Americanization committee contacted the school children throughout this district with talks regarding the Legionnaires program for the safety of our country, and the preservation of the ideals of liberty that we seek to maintain.

In April 1935 the Post in meeting was advised of the recent death of Lawrence Burke at Plymouth, Indiana. "Pete" had formerly been a member of our post, being elected Vice-Commander August 8, 1921 and re-elected Nov. 14, 1921 for the year 1922. He served as Post Adjutant in 1924. He lived in Crown Point about seven years, being local manager of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company.

Commander Mybeck has served the members of his post faithfully in finding jobs for the unemployed, and requiring his committee to find a job for every member of our post that comes seeking one. In athletic performances we have not been dilatory, witness our State champion golf team, and our bowling team that rates as state champions.

We are honored in the district with Comrade J. Hiram Johnston of our post, first vice-commander, and four appointments on the State Committees for the year 1935.

Mrs. Louise Young of our Auxiliary is at this time serving as District President of the Auxiliary

In recent weeks several of our members have had the opportunity of telling the legion story and delivering our views on Americanism over the air through the courtesy of District Radio Chairman Claude Holmes of Glen Park. and of the management of Station "WIND" which has always been very kindly disposed toward the Legion.

As we look forward into the coming years your historian can only see continued life and interest in the activities of Fred Schmidt Post No. 20, whose home is in Crown Point, which commander Mybeck always refers to as, "The most beautiful city in the Calumet Region."

SOME FACTS ABOUT CROWN POINT AND VICINITY IN THE WORLD WAR

Crown Point, Indiana, and vicinity was known and designated for military purposes during the World War as Local Board, District No. 3, Lake County, Indiana.

The officers of the Local Board were Sheriff Lew Barnes, Dr. J. C. Gibbs and John A. Donnaha, Otto J. Bruce was the government Appeal Agent for District Board No. 3.

This Board registered, according to official statistics, a total of 4,758 men. Of this number the board placed on a deferred status, the following numbers:

Deferred for dependency	827
Deferred for agricultural needs	176
Deferred for industrial needs	34
Disqualified for physical disabilities ..	123

At the close of the war this board had named 1,854 men in the order in which they were to go to the service, of which number 474 actually were inducted into service in camps by army authorities.

The records of our first post minute book lists 454 men and their addresses that were named as ex-service men from the area served by Local Board No. 3. I am unable to account for this discrepancy in numbers between 454 and 474, except that the 20 additional numbers that official records include is the number of commissioned officers from this area.

This area served by the Post to the knowledge of the post historian, gave to the service of the United States, as officers commissioned:—

Wm. G. Haan, Major General U. S. Army,
Herman Glade. Colonel, U. S. Army.
Elmore Salisbury, Major, U. S. Army,

Arthur Umpleby, Major, U. S. Army.
John Ward Wheeler, Capt. Engineers.
Herman Meyer, Capt. Infantry.
Edward K. Newton, 1st Lt. Med. Corps.
Foster Bruce, 1st Lt. Inf.
Glenn Stonex, 2nd Lt. Air Service.
Joseph Hoffman, 2nd Lt. Inf.
Major Allman, 2nd Lt. Inf.
Fred Young, 2nd Lt. Art.
Clifford Sherman, 2nd Lt. Inf.
Walter G. Koupal, 2nd Lt. Chem. Service.

The Fred Schmidt Post area also furnished a navy contingent of volunteers that numbers 22 individuals according to post records.

There were also some Marine Corps Volunteers from this area, a matter of sufficient distinction, at least in the eyes of Marine Corps men, that they may be named, to-wit:

Clayton Belshaw,
Robert W. Bruce,
Frank Henn,
Corliss Jones,
W. Vincent Youkey.

These last are the men who according to Marine teaching both by song and story will guard the streets of heaven when the army and the navy are at play in the happy hunting grounds reserved for military men.

The local Board Area No. 3, would include some commissioned officers from Lowell, and vicinity that are not listed in the group above as coming from the community served by Fred Schmidt Post, and Lowell and vicinity like-wise furnished a quota of sailors and marines, volunteers, that we of course cannot claim in our Post area, but your post historian would be truthful and accurate in saying that the area denominated Local Board No. 3, gave at least 514 men, soldiers, sailors, marines, and their officers to the United States in the World War.

These Crown Point men served in every part of the army, navy, and marines, in as widely diversified areas as can be imagined. In very rare instances did any Crown Point men, see more than one or two men from his home town after leaving for the army, much less to serve in the same outfit.

This diversity of service is illustrated in reading the list in the memorial roll at the beginning of this booklet. No two of the men there listed died in the same camp or town, or while serving in the same regiment or division. This group that made the supreme sacrifice served in places as far flung as Puget Sound on our west coast to the Brooklyn Navy Yard on our east coast, and in France from Brest, the port of entry to farthest pushed line in the Meuse-Argonne. The dates of their deaths alone speak volumes, the first of March 18, 1918, after serving nearly a year, and the last November 16, 1918, five days after the Armistice from wounds sustained in the action just preceeding the Armistice.

Fred Schmidt Post must ever take pride in remembering these men who served their country, some sacrificing their lives early in the war, many during the heat of the strife, and some even after victory and peace had been attained.

In this connection it is well to recall the Army service of two men in addition to General Haan, whose service is discussed in the forepart of this booklet, who were born and reared in Crown Point, and always claimed it as their home, but served so many years in the army that many of the younger people, and in fact many of the veterans of our community never knew them.

The first of these, Herman Glade, was born in Hanover Township April 28, 1874, son of Henry Glade and Sophia Seehausen Glade, and graduated from the Crown Point High School in 1896. He followed in the footsteps of Gen. Haan, graduated from West Point in 1900, was appointed 2nd Lt. Inf. and attached to the 5th Infantry. He

served in the army faithfully for 32 years, rising through the ranks, his tour of duties taking him to the Philippines three times, once to the Hawaiian Islands and once to the Panama Canal Zone. He rose to the rank of Colonel, and during the World War was engaged in the work of training young officers. Col. Glade was an instructor in mathematics at West Point Military Academy for 18 years, and it is said was personally acquainted with more U. S. Army officers, than any other officer in the service.

Following the War he was attached to the office of the chief of staff, and served in Washington, D. C., until his retirement in 1932.

Since retirement he lived at Burlingame, California, where he died December 7, 1934.

Major Elmore Salisbury, born Jan. 31, 1882, son Elmore Z., and Olive G. Salisbury, was another Crown Point product who served many years in the army. A dentist by profession he went to the Philippines after the Spanish-American War at the call of the government that needed men to help in the task of governing the newly acquired Islands. "Zollie" as he was known by his friends served several "hitches" in the Philippine Constabulary, rising to the rank of Captain. He was appointed as Lieutenant Governor of the Island of Luzon, which position he held when the United States entered the World War. Resigning this position he was sent to Camp Lewis, Washington, as an instructor of the officers training camp, and then later was sent to Fort Sill for advanced training in Artillery Fire. Here he was promoted to rank of Major and remained as an instructor in the Artillery School until the close of the war.

He resigned from the service after the war having spent 25 years in military service, and army administration work. He spent the latter years of his life in South America, and died March 20, 1934.

The post historian in gathering some material for this pamphlet has been reading the file of the Lake County Star in our public library, reading particularly the numbers published during 1917 and 1918, which contain many items of interest that all ex-service men would enjoy reviewing, having been away from the home town at that period.

It will be of interest to remind ourselves that the folks at home in Crown Point, in keeping the home fires burning raised during the summer of 1917, \$5,699.53 as shown by the report in the Star, dated June 29, 1917, for War Work of the National Red Cross and in 1917 and 1918 over \$600,000, for Liberty Bonds.

Dr. A. E. Krost, who was at that time Mayor of Crown Point, Indiana, called the citizenry together for a patriotic meeting May 2, 1918, and the names of 54 soldiers from Crown Point who had already enlisted was read, and committees were appointed to carry into effect all necessary measures to comply with war time requirements.

Attorney John B. Peterson of our City was named Chairman of the County Council of Defense, and each of our surrounding townships named defense chairmen to lead in all home defense work, as follows:—

Center Township—John V. Perry
St. John Township—August Stommel
Ross Township—Wm. G. Woods.
Hanover Township—Emil Ruge
Winfield Township—James H. Love

The folks at home also went on reduced food rations, fuel rations and without light that we might have plenty.

The copies of May 4th and May 11th, 1917 tell of the send off that the local citizenry gave to the recruits that volunteered early under the recruiting of Sergeant Welch. Some members of our post by turning to these pages can read letters that they wrote home while under the spell of first experience in the service.

If you want to recall your serial number boys, read the Star of July 13, 1917.

The issue of July 27th, 1917 gives the first 5000 order numbers drawn, in February 1918, the home papers were telling of the return home of Pat O'Brien and printing the narrative of his experience; in March 1918 the paper tells of the funeral of Fred Schmidt for whom our post was named. In May the quota for the Third Liberty Loan, \$120,000. assigned to our community was exceeded and nearly doubled, the total aggregating \$212,000.

On May 24, 1918, E. R. Cole, treasurer of the Red Cross reported the results of the Red Cross drive for war work, being the annual drive, the figures totaling \$18,000.00 plus. July 1, 1918 two truck caravans and a 14 car train of troops passed through our town going east, stopping a while for recreation. Over the 4th a group of 1000 troops camped at the Fair Grounds, being regulars released from duty in the west by the citizen soldiers filling up the army. On August 18, 1918, the home papers printed a very interesting letter from Ralph Phillips Co. E, 105th Supply Train, dated July 11, 1918, somewhere in France.

Many rumors were afloat to worry the folks at home during this period, and news became distorted. Our comrade Clem Beem, was reported as killed during the fall, and in October the papers printed a vigorous fighting letter from Major General Haan, written to the people of his home town.

In October the community went over the top with the 4th Liberty Loan, the aggregate amount raised being \$356,000.

These were days of stress and strain for the folks at home due to lack of news. The Armistice being signed there was a violent and noisy rejoicing in Crown Point, but the community was saddened during December 1918 when the first news came December 13th, telling of the death of

Rheinhardt Boesel, killed in action Nov. 2, 1918, and December 20th, telling of the death of Lt. Joseph Hoffman and James I. Price, who died as the results of wounds in action received during October 1918.

During the remainder of the winter and the spring of 1919, the local papers were full of news of army affairs, and lots of the letters written home from France were published, the home folks rejoicing in the definite information that the letters furnished as to the whereabouts of the members of the family overseas, and that they had actually survived the war.

Others during this period, it must not be forgotten, received the sad intelligence confirming fears already had, and rumors received that some one would never return. In most instances the official report of the death of a soldier was proceeded by rumors, and unconfirmed reports that somehow carried the news ahead.

In our community there are ten men at the present time who are drawing some slight amounts for compensation for injuries sustained in the service, all of them pitifully reduced in recent months. These injuries range from small disabilities to more serious matters.

The most serious injury of any living member of our post was sustained by Comrade C. J. Beem, who lost his limb during the Chateau-Thierry engagement, and who commands the respect of all veterans because of the cheerfulness with which he bears his injury. As historian of the post I regret to record the fact that in recent months the compensations due from the government in such matters have been cut to such an extent that it is the duty of every citizen to see that the condition is corrected. At least this is the historian's personal view.

The post historian has not been able to gather the information to make a report of the service of all of the boys from this community that have died since the war, and therefore must

omit the same until some later time, but the service rendered by Bn. Sgt. Major Jesse R. Peterson, is so outstanding that same should be recorded.

Jesse R. Peterson, son of Jesse Peterson and Cora Sherwood Peterson, was born August 12, 1894 in the City of Crown Point, Indiana. He moved with his parents to Roseland, Illinois, when he was eight years old, and was educated in the Roseland public schools and graduated from high school in that community.

Peterson joined the Illinois National Guard, and received military training early in his life, and served in the Guard during the Mexican border trouble while the guard was mustered into federal service.

Peterson enlisted in the Regular Army January 29, 1917, and was assigned to the Machine Gun Company of the 1st Inf. Regular Army; appointed Corporal July 1, 1917; and appointed Battalion Sergeant Major August 28, 1917.

Desiring to cross the waters, he was transferred to the 14th Machine Gun Battalion January 6, 1918, and was trained with that outfit for overseas duty. This outfit left for France April 24, 1918, Sgt. Peterson, being a member of Company "D", first as a Corp. and then as a Sergeant from July 1, 1918. On France the 15th Machine Gun Battalion was attached to and became a part of the 5th Division (Red Diamond), and took part in the St. Mihiel Drive, Sept. 11th to 17th, 1918.

Afterwards the division was thrown into the Meuse-Argonne offensive October 12th to October 22, 1918, and after five days rest was again put up to the front from October 27, 1918 to November 11, 1918.

Sgt. Peterson went with his division to Germany in the army of occupation after the hostilities were over. During this period he wrote home a number of intensely interesting letters

descriptive of the scenes that he had passed through, and giving vivid pictures of the army life in Germany and Luxenburg. The censorship of letters having been lifted at this time, he talked freely of his high regard for the Red Arrow Division and the officers and men of the division.

Three of his letters may be found in the Lake County Star, dated January 10th, March 7th, and March 28th, 1919, respectively. Mr. Peterson reminds his readers that his division stood in the thickest of the fighting, captured of the enemy, 48 officers, 2,357 men, and took 98 piece of field artillery and 802 machine guns, advancing 29 kilometers in the face of the enemy. He records that on one day after particularly hard fighting and heavy losses sustained by our troops. "We made the enemy feel our power because we picked up 258 bodies of enemy dead in the area captured by our outfit."

Sgt. Peterson returned to the United States from Germany with his Battalion July 2, 1919, and was discharged June 2, 1920.

After the war Sergeant Peterson returned to Roseland, where he lived with his family for a number of years, and later moved back to the town of his birth, Crown Point, Indiana, where he lived for a number of years. He died Sept. 11, 1932, and left surviving him his wife, and five children, who reside at the present time on North Jackson Street; and his father and mother who reside at 414 Dahlgren Street.

Since the principal portion of this pamphlet has been prepared, various persons have called the attention of the post historian to the record of Eddie W. Feeser, 409 North Grant street in Crown Point, Indiana, in the world War. Mr. Feeser's experience is a remarkable illustration of what it is possible for a person to go through if they have that rare combination of good health, iron nerves, and the aid of what some might call luck, and others the guiding hand of fate, destiny or the supreme being.

Mr. Feeser enlisted in the regular army of the United States, April 16, 1917, just ten days after War was declared. He was assigned to the famous 2nd Division, and served as Private 1st Class, Battery C., 12th Field Artillery, and went to France with the division landing there January 11, 1918. The division immediately began intensive training operations, and from March 1918 to the end of the war was practically in constant fighting.

Mr. Feeser was on active duty as an artilleryman in seven major engagements, defensive first and the last three of them offensive, as follows:

Toulon, March 24 to May 13, 1918;
Aisne, June 4th to 5th, 1918;
Chateau-Thierry, June 6 to July 9, 1918;
Aisne-Marne, July 18th to 25th, 1918.
Marboche, August 9th to 27th, 1918;
St. Mihiel, September 12th to 16th, 1918;
Meuse-Argonne, October 1 to 28th, and November 1st to November 11th, 1918.

Subsequent to the Armistice, Mr. Feeser went with his division and served with the Army of Occupation in Germany until August 6, 1919, when the division was returned home. He was honorably discharged August 14, 1919, after two years and four months of war time service, ten months of which had been put in under the most trying conditions that soldiers had ever been called upon to survive.

The record of John B. Keehn, another of our modest and unassuming comrades has come to the notice of the post historian, and deserves a place in this history. "Jack" Keehn hailed from the community of LeRoy when the writer first got acquainted with him after the war, through Legion contacts. His discharge certificate says that he was 21 years old when he enlisted May 5, 1917 at Fort Thomas, Ky. He was sent overseas August 7, 1917 and assigned to Co. "B", 1st Ammunition Train, and has the distinction of

being entitled to four gold chevrons more than two full years of service overseas.

Comrade Kehn was on active duty and is officially credited with service in the following major engagements:—

Toul def. Jan. 15 to April 3, 1918;
Cantigny, May 28 to 30, 1918;
Zaigerais, def. April 7 to 26, 1918;
Contidier-Noyon def. April 26, 1918 to July 7, 1918;
Aisne-Marne off. July 18 to 24, 1918;
St. Mihiel off. Sept. 12 to 15, 1918;
Meuse-Argonne, Oct. 1 to Nov. 8, 1918.

Comrade Keehn then went with the Army of Occupation into Germany, on November 21, 1918 and remained overseas until the 20th day of August 1919, returning home with the 1st Division, the first to reach France and the last to come home.

He was discharged Sept. 25, 1919, having been in the strenuous war time service, 2 years, 5 months and 20 days, being discharged at Camp Taylor, Ky.

Comrade Keehn is an active member of our post and is associated in the hardware business with L. E. Weiss.

Such records cannot be lightly passed over and the citizens of our city as well as the members of the post should recall these men and their deeds with pride.

A FEW COINCIDENCES OF THE SERVICE

The writer recalls with pleasure the "kick" he got out of a chance meeting after being with Georgia, Alabama and New York troops for many months, and not having seen any one from home for more than a year, and having quit expecting to see any one, when walking down a sandy road near Camp Hancock at Augusta, Georgia, he suddenly met Harvey Demmons, an old high school friend, whose home was just north of Crown Point. Was that a happy meeting? And how.

That coincidence pales in comparison with this one however. Our comrade Luther Rudolph was with troops overseas and had been many months without seeing anyone from home, and being with troops that were passing other troops near the front in the darkness were bantering and jesting as soldiers do on such occasions, when suddenly he heard a voice in the darkness that he recognized, and named as being Walter Kussmaul whose home was only three doors away from his own home in Crown Point, neither of the boys having the least knowledge of the whereabouts of the other.

Ovidio Velluntini of our own post, having left the country of his birth, to make America his home, went into the army and was sent back across the waters, during the near disaster on the Italian Front was ordered along with his regiment into Italy, where American troops were being sent to strengthen the Italian front, and he an American soldier with troops on duty, passed through the town of his birth, and obtained a short leave to visit his people.

Again Gen. Haan the head of a conquering Army Corps marched into Germany at the close of the war and under orders marched through

the village where his parents lived prior to coming to this country, and took the opportunity of visiting his relatives still residing there. We may be sure that these people received fair treatment at the hands of the American soldiers.

Another interesting coincidence occurred in our own Community Building in Crown Point, at the public installation of our 1935 post officers. The post historian was reading the military citation given Hilding Holmquist, by the French government, which brought his presence and whereabouts to the attention of a Gary comrade who had served with Holmquist overseas in the same regiment for many months. Having been discharged each unknown to the other had returned to the same county, and had lived for 16 years within a few miles of one another, before that chance meeting of "old buddies" occurred which every soldier longs for.

LEGION NOTES

THE CREED OF A LEGIONNAIRE

I consider it an honor and believe it is my duty to belong to the American Legion for the following reasons:

1. Because next to my birth and my marriage, it commemorates the greatest adventure of my life.
2. Because it is a he-man's organization, constituted by and made up of fighting men.
3. Because it is the representative body of the World War Veterans.
4. Because it gives me opportunity for continued service to my comrades, my city, my state and country.
5. Because it is an exclusive organization, which in time will have only one member.
6. Because it makes of me a better citizen, and a better man for my family to live with.
7. Because it stamps me as a true American
8. Because it nets profits of good fellowship in excess of the investment.
9. Because there is enough fun in it for my heart's satisfaction.
10. Because it renews my faith, and replenishes my confidence in the cause for which I fought.

HOW THE AMERICAN LEGION SERVES THE EX-SOLDIER

REHABILITATION

The American Legion from its beginning has fostered all bills that have provided for rehabilitation of the veteran whose injuries sustained were such that his former mode of earning a living was destroyed. It has pointed the way in providing hospitalization to restore help first, and then provide instruction for the new trade or profession that the veteran can undertake.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

In 1925 the Legion conducted a nation wide campaign to raise an endowment fund of \$5,000,000.00 to aid the disabled and the orphans. Fred Schmidt Post had a part in this work and exceeded the quota of \$850.000 which was allotted to our post to raise.

AMERICANISM

The Legion has come to be recognized as one of the stalwart supports of the country in teaching true Americanism. The Legion's program in this regard is to overcome illiteracy, to teach civic consciousness, to honor the flag, and to encourage the youth of the land in the constitution, and the true principles of representative government as established by our fathers.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The whole Legion organization has waged a continuous war against unemployment, and especially to see that its members were provided with a livelihood. Especially in the year 1934 Fred Schmidt Post through its adjutant has labored earnestly to solve this problem for all its members

AIDING WAR ORPHANS

The child welfare movement in the Legion took shape in 1922, and has grown continuously since that date. The Legion aims that no child of an ex-service man shall go without the food or clothing that that child deserves from an enlightened social group, simply because it has lost its Legionnaire parent or parents; and that such orphan of an ex-service man shall receive an education enabling the child to compete on equal standards with those who are not orphan. To this purpose the Legion supports the various homes for children of ex-service men—among which in our state is the Knightstown Home, a shining example of the work that our nation is doing for these children.

THE LEGION BELIEVES IN PREPAREDNESS

The American Legion stands for adequate preparation in time of peace to protect our land and homes in the event of war. Knowing the horrors of war and at first hand the Legion is opposed to wars of aggression, and is opposed to people being led into war by groups that seek to profit by war. In support of this principle the Legion has consistently advocated the drafting of wealth as well as man power, should the occasion arise that war is inevitable.

INDIANA COLLECTION

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